

Surface Navy Sailors of the Year 2019

Surface Warriors Awards April 17, 2020April 17, 2020 1 Minute



Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (SURFPAC) recently announced the 2019 Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year (SOY).
Navy Career Counselor 1st Class Brenda V. Lemas, assigned to Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron (COMLCSRON) 1, was named Shore Sailor of the Year and Yeoman 1st Class Vinish Nair assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) was named Sea Sailor of the Year.

The Sailor of the Year competition was originally created 58 years ago, in 1978 by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Whittet.

Due to social distancing directives during the COVID-19 virus outbreak, the traditional in-person Sailor of the year boards were cancelled but were held via phone conference. The winner announcements were made via personal congratulatory e-mails.

The annual competition begins with hundreds of sea and shore Sailors of the Year from commands across the CNSP claimancy, and the finalists are narrowed down from the larger list of winners.

Finalists for the Shore Sailors of the Year were Damage Controlman 1st Class Jeffery Ballard, Commander, Afloat Training Group Western Pacific (COMAIG WESTPAC); Information Systems Technician 1st Class Kas Barnett, PCU USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118); Legalman 1st Class Ayanna Higgins, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron 3 (COMCMRON THREE); and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Damien Todd, Commander, Amphibious Construction Battalion 1 (ACB ONE).
The finalists for the Sea Sailors of the Year were Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Franny Conrad, Assault Craft Unit 5 (ACU FIVE); Boastwain's Mate 1st Class Sal Graheda, USS Jackson (LCS 6); Machinist's Mate 1st Class Nick Margarelli, USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112); Operations Specialist 1st Class Chris Johnson, USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53); and Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Kevin Allison, USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54).

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